

**2007 Report on Act 150 of 2000,
An Act Relating to
Public School Choice in Grades 9-12**

Report to the House and Senate Committees on Education

January 15, 2007



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2007 Annual Report on Act 150 of 2000, Public School Choice in Grades 9-12

I. Introduction

This is the sixth annual report required by Act 150. It provides information on how schools have implemented the law and the extent to which students have participated, focusing chiefly on the current school year. In January, 2005, the department provided qualitative findings from a study done by UVM researchers and offered additional findings and recommendations as directed by the legislation in Sec. 3(b)(1)(A)-(E). Through Sec. 21 of H.867, of the 2006 session, the legislature repealed Sec. 4 of Act 150, the July 2007 sunset provision; therefore, until the Legislature takes further action, Act 150 remains in force.

This report also includes Appendix A, Act 150 Tables and Bar Graph; Appendix B, Choice Data by School; and Appendix C, School Choice Regions for School Year 2006-2007.

For reference, this report and those from 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006 are provided on the department's Act 150 Web page at <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/laws/act150.html>.

II. Implementation of School Choice, 2006-2007

School Choice Participants

“Other” and “Unknown” appear in this report as a result of data from schools that could not be verified.

The number of students who applied to enroll in other schools this year was 256, of whom 107 enrolled. Therefore, .8 percent of the estimated students in grades 9-12 applied to transfer to other schools. Both the number of students who applied and who enrolled increased approximately 100 percent this year compared with last year, although the absolute number exercising choice remains very small. Of the cumulative number of students who have transferred under Act 150 during the last four years, 315 students (higher than the other four years) are currently active participants; this is just over 1 percent of all high school students. Five schools with 36 enrollees account for one-third of all who enrolled this year: South Burlington, 12; Lake Region, 6; Burlington, 6; and Middlebury and U32, 5 each.

Four schools with 29 transfers account for just over one-quarter of those who transferred this year: Burlington and North Country, 8 each; Bellows Falls, 7; and CVU, 6.

The gender distribution of students exercising choice, and participation by students receiving free and reduced price lunch and by special education students, were consistent with these groups' proportional representation in the entire high school population.

Schools with technical centers or with access to them were chosen by students exercising choice at relatively higher rates than schools without such access. Given the low number of small schools and students exercising choice from them, no generalizations can be made about these data.

This year, among 61 schools, there were new students transferring from 40, compared with 18 in 2005-2006; there were new students enrolling into 39 schools, compared with 22 in 2005-

2006. There were new students transferring from or enrolling in 53 schools this year, compared with 29 last year. Although the total number of students exercising choice is small, each of these numbers shows broader participation in high school choice across the state.

A very small number of schools either provided transportation for students exercising choice or were asked to do so.

There was no measurable disparate impact in enrollment lotteries on male or female students, nor on students receiving free or reduced price lunch, nor on special education students. Nor was there measurable disparate impact on males or females, or on students receiving free or reduced price lunch, or on special education students in transferring lotteries.

Composition of School Choice Regions

As shown in Appendix C, compared with last year, there have been relatively few changes in the composition of school choice regions. This year, 61 schools are members of 19 school choice regions. There are three relatively large groups: 18 in Winooski Valley (Central Vermont); 11 in the Southeast; and seven in Rutland County.

III. Conclusion

While the quantitative data in this report will inform deliberations about school choice to some degree, the small number of participants, both of those who applied and transferred and of those who applied but did not transfer, makes it impossible to draw specific or broad conclusions. The attached tables are intended to respond to the questions that precede them which have been drawn from the text of Act 150.

Attachments

Appendix A: Act 150 Tables & Bar Graph

Appendix B: Choice Data by School

Appendix C: School Choice Regions for School Year 2006-2007

Appendix A: Act 150 Tables & Bar Graph

The Data

	FY03	FY04	FY05	FY06	FY07
Number of High Schools	61	61	61	61	61
Number of High Schools Reporting	61	61	60	61	61

How many 9-12th grade pupils exercised choice and how many pupils wished to exercise choice but were unable to do so?

	FY03	FY04*	FY05*	FY06*	FY07*
Number requesting enrollment	221	188	151	128	256
Number enrolled	161	121	76	52	107
Number accepted but not enrolled	36	24	38	27	34
Number declined	18	33	36	27	101
Other	6	10	1	22	14
Number requesting transfer	226	142	174	155	223
Number with confirmed transfer	161	121	90	52	107
Number accepted but not transferred	22	13	31	57	33
Number declined	33	25	23	26	64
Other	10	8	30	20	19

*Students reported in prior years are not included in these totals.

How many Act 150 students are enrolled in Vermont public schools today?

FY03	FY04		FY05		FY06		FY07	
Act 150 Students	New Act 150 Students	Cumulative Total	New Act 150 Students	Cumulative Total	New Act 150 Students	Cumulative Total	New Act 150 Students	Cumulative Total
161	120	223	76	223	52	254	107	315

How has choice affected stratification of student populations with respect to social and economic factors?

	Total number of 9-12th grade students in Vermont Public High Schools.		Total number of 9-12th grade students requesting enrollment by choice		Total number of 9-12th grade students enrolled by choice.		Total number of 9-12th grade students declined enrollment by choice.	
Total	29,142		256	0.9%	107	41.8%	101	39.5%
Gender								
Female	14,247	48.9%	130	50.8%	57	53.3%	45	44.6%
Male	14,895	51.1%	126	49.2%	50	46.7%	56	55.4%
Unknown	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Special Ed								
With IEP	3,913	13.4%	25	9.8%	14	13.1%	6	5.9%
Without IEP	25,229	86.6%	231	90.2%	93	86.9%	95	94.1%
Poverty								
Free/Red L	5,422	18.6%	48	18.8%	17	15.9%	22	21.8%
No Free/Re	23,720	81.4%	190	74.2%	79	73.8%	74	73.3%
Unknown	0	0.0%	18	7.0%	11	10.3%	5	5.0%
Grade Level								
9	7,375	25.3%	88	34.4%	42	39.3%	30	29.7%
10	7,340	25.2%	53	20.7%	16	15.0%	26	25.7%
11	7,342	25.2%	53	20.7%	16	15.0%	27	26.7%
12	7,085	24.3%	36	14.1%	17	15.9%	11	10.9%
8/Unknown	0	0.0%	26	10.2%	16	15.0%	7	6.9%

Are special education students and other students with special needs receiving equal access to choice and are their needs accommodated?

	Total number of 9-12th grade students in Vermont Public High Schools		Total number of 9-12th grade students requesting transfer by choice.		Total number of 9-12th grade students with confirmed transfer by choice.		Total number of 9-12th grade students declined transfer by choice.	
Total	29,142		223	0.8%	107	48.0%	64	28.7%
Gender								
Female	14,247	48.9%	119	53.4%	57	53.3%	31	48.4%
Male	14,895	51.1%	104	46.6%	50	46.7%	33	51.6%
Unknown	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Special Ed								
With IEP	3,913	13.4%	19	8.5%	14	13.1%	0	0.0%
Without IEP	25,229	86.6%	204	91.5%	93	86.9%	64	100.0%
Poverty								
Free/Red L	5,422	18.6%	36	16.1%	17	15.9%	11	17.2%
No Free/Re	23,720	81.4%	167	74.9%	78	72.9%	48	75.0%
Unknown	0	0.0%	20	9.0%	12	11.2%	5	7.8%
Grade Level								
9	7,375	25.3%	71	31.8%	42	39.3%	15	23.4%
10	7,340	25.2%	52	23.3%	16	15.0%	19	29.7%
11	7,342	25.2%	39	17.5%	16	15.0%	12	18.8%
12	7,085	24.3%	33	14.8%	17	15.9%	9	14.1%
7/8/SU/Unk	0	0.0%	28	12.6%	16	15.0%	9	14.1%

What is the effect of the system on access to technical centers and transition to work programs?

The current study provided no information indicating whether choice affected access to transition to work programs. However, we were able to look at the effect of choice on access to technical centers. Each school was labeled as including a local technical center, or not. The number of students enrolling in or transferring to each category is listed below. For the third year in a row data indicate that students are leaving schools without a local technical center more often than those with one. Similarly more students are entering schools with a local technical center than those without.

	N	Enrolling	Transferring	Percentage of Schools with Net Loss
Schools with Local Technical Centers	15	36	30	27%
Schools without Local Technical Centers	46	71	77	43%

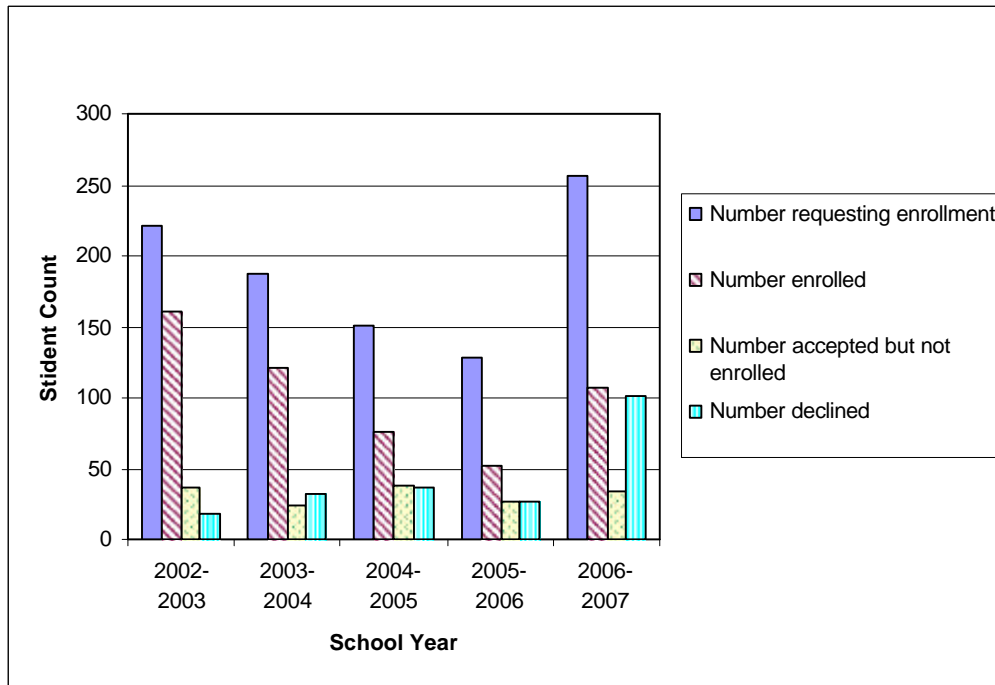
How has the system affected small schools?

	N	Enrolling	Transferring	Percentage of Schools with Net Loss
Schools with fewer than 25 or fewer graduates	5	0	10	60%
Schools with more than 25 graduates	56	107	97	36%

Transportation Questions

	Yes	No	No Answer	Unknown
Does your school provide transportation assistance for enrolled Act 150 students?	1	59	1	0
Does your school provide transportation assistance for transferring Act 150 students?	1	59	1	0
Has your school been asked to provide transportation assistance for enrolled Act 150 students?	1	47	1	12
Has your school been asked to provide transportation assistance for transferring Act 150 students?	1	45	1	14

Students Requesting to Enroll by Act 150



Appendix B: Choice Data by School

School ID	School Name	Transfer Capacity FY07	Enrollment Capacity FY07	Students Transferred By Act 150 FY03	Additional Students with Confirmed Transfer By Act 150 Reported in FY04	Additional Students with Confirmed Transfer By Act 150 Reported in FY05	Additional Students with Confirmed Transfer By Act 150 Reported in FY06	Additional Students with Confirmed Transfer By Act 150 Reported in FY07	Students Enrolled By Act 150 FY03	Additional Students Enrolled By Act 150 Reported in FY04	Additional Students Enrolled By Act 150 Reported in FY05	Additional Students Enrolled By Act 150 Reported in FY06	Additional Students Enrolled By Act 150 Reported in FY07	Small High School	Local Technical Center
Statewide Totals		540	547	161	120	76	52	107	161	120	76	52	107	5	15
PI004	RIVENDELL ACADEMY	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	No	No
PS011	ARLINGTON MEMORIAL	4	4	0	1	0	0	2	3	4	4	4	3	No	No
PS025	BELLOWS FALLS UHSD #27	15	15	10	2	0	0	7	1	0	0	1	3	No	No
PS035	BLACK RIVER USD #39	8	10	5	3	1	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	No	No
PS036	BLUE MOUNTAIN USD #21	3	10	1	2	0	2	4	1	1	0	3	0	Yes	No
PS040	BRATTLEBORO UHSD #6	4	4	0	0	1	0	2	3	3	4	0	3	No	Yes
PS052	BURLINGTON SENIOR HIGH SCH	15	15	3	5	4	1	8	3	8	8	2	6	No	Yes
PS055	CABOT SCHOOL	7	5	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	Yes	No
PS059	CANAAN SCHOOLS	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	No	No
PS066	CHAMPLAIN VALLEY UHSD #15	10	4	0	8	7	11	6	0	1	0	1	1	No	No
PS069	CHELSEA ELEM. HIGH SCHOOL	5	1	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	Yes	No
PS072	COLCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL	10	10	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	No	No
PS074	CONCORD SCHOOL	2	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Yes	No
PS078	CRAFTSBURY SCHOOLS	3	3	1	0	0	0	3	1	1	0	0	0	Yes	No
PS082	DANVILLE SCHOOL	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	No	No
PS098	ENOSBURG FALLS JR/SR HIGH SC	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	No	Yes
PS104	FAIR HAVEN UHSD #16	10	10	7	1	0	2	4	7	3	0	1	0	No	No
PS124	GREEN MOUNTAIN UHSD #35	30	16	2	1	0	0	3	16	6	2	0	3	No	No
PS134	HARTFORD HIGH SCHOOL	--	--	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	No	Yes
PS138	HARWOOD UHSD #19	10	10	3	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	No	No
PS139	HAZEN UHSD #26	10	10	1	2	1	3	2	0	0	0	0	1	No	No
PS157	LAKE REGION UHSD #24	10	10	6	5	5	2	2	4	6	7	0	8	No	No
PS158	LAMOILLE UHSD #18	5	8	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	3	1	No	Yes
PS161	LELAND AND GRAY UHSD #34	10	10	0	2	1	0	1	2	0	1	0	3	No	No
PS180	MIDDLEBURY SR. UHSD #3	10	10	0	1	0	1	0	6	6	2	0	5	No	Yes
PS183	MILL RIVER USD #40	10	2	4	1	2	1	2	20	2	1	0	2	No	No
PS186	MILTON SR HIGH SCHOOL	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	No	No
PS187	MISSISQUOI VALLEY UHSD #7	8	24	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	No	No
PS191	MONTPELIER HIGH SCHOOL	10	10	6	9	0	1	4	15	4	0	3	2	No	No

Vermont Department of Education

School ID	School Name	Transfer Capacity FY07	Enrollment Capacity FY07	Students Transferred By Act 150 FY03	Additional Students with Confirmed Transfer By Act 150 Reported in FY04	Additional Students with Confirmed Transfer By Act 150 Reported in FY05	Additional Students with Confirmed Transfer By Act 150 Reported in FY06	Additional Students with Confirmed Transfer By Act 150 Reported in FY07	Students Enrolled By Act 150 FY03	Additional Students Enrolled By Act 150 Reported in FY04	Additional Students Enrolled By Act 150 Reported in FY05	Additional Students Enrolled By Act 150 Reported in FY06	Additional Students Enrolled By Act 150 Reported in FY07	Small High School	Local Technical Center
Statewide Totals		540	547	161	120	76	52	107	161	120	76	52	107	5	15
PS195	MOUNT ABRAHAM UHSD #28	10	10	5	3	2	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	No	No
PS196	MT. ANTHONY SR. UHSD #14	--	10	3	3	0	0	3	0	3	1	0	2	No	Yes
PS199	MT. MANSFIELD USD #17	10	10	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	No	No
PS208	NORTH COUNTRY SR UHSD #22	15	15	2	4	7	0	8	6	7	7	2	2	No	Yes
PS211	NORTHFIELD MIDDLE/HIGH SCHO	6	6	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	2	No	No
PS219	OTTER VALLEY UHSD #8	10	10	10	4	4	0	0	3	3	0	1	1	No	No
PS220	OXBOW UHSD #30	10	8	1	1	0	3	0	1	2	0	2	4	No	Yes
PS224	PEOPLES ACADEMY	6	6	2	1	1	1	1	4	3	0	0	3	No	No
PS230	POULTNEY HIGH SCHOOL	2	2	5	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	No	No
PS233	PROCTOR JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL	5	5	2	2	0	1	0	5	1	4	1	3	No	No
PS237	RANDOLPH UHSD #2	2	8	1	0	0	0	3	4	1	1	0	3	No	Yes
PS242	RICHFORD JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	No	No
PS247	ROCHESTER SCHOOL	5	5	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	No	No
PS253	RUTLAND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL	--	2	2	2	2	0	3	13	4	5	3	2	No	Yes
PS272	SO. BURLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL	25	25	1	0	0	2	3	1	14	11	12	12	No	No
PS274	SO. ROYALTON ELEM/HIGH SCHO	8	8	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	No	No
PS276	SPAULDING HSUD #41	20	6	7	3	3	1	1	5	4	4	1	3	No	Yes
PS278	SPRINGFIELD HIGH SCHOOL	10	10	1	0	0	0	1	2	3	1	1	4	No	Yes
PS287	STOWE MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL	6	6	2	1	0	0	0	5	3	2	2	0	No	No
PS304	TWINFIELD USD #33	--	5	1	0	0	0	1	1	4	2	5	0	No	No
PS305	U32 HIGH SCHOOL (UHSD #32)	10	10	12	4	0	2	0	6	9	2	1	5	No	No
PS312	VERGENNES UHSD #5	10	10	2	2	0	0	3	1	0	1	1	1	No	No
PS331	WEST RUTLAND SCHOOL	10	10	5	3	0	0	1	2	2	1	0	2	No	No
PS338	WHITCOMB JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL	5	5	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	No	No
PS341	WHITINGHAM SCHOOL			1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
PS344	WILLIAMSTOWN MIDDLE/HIGH SC	10	10	2	0	0	0	2	3	2	0	0	0	No	No
PS346	TWIN VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL	50	50	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	No	No
PS348	WINDSOR HIGH SCHOOL	3	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	No	No
PS351	WINOOSKI HIGH SCHOOL	10	10	2	4	6	0	4	2	2	0	0	0	No	No
PS356	WOODSTOCK SR. UHSD #4	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	No	No
PS388	ESSEX COMM. ED. CTR. UHSD #46	10	10	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	No	Yes

Vermont Department of Education

School ID	School Name	Transfer Capacity FY07	Enrollment Capacity FY07	Students Transferred By Act 150 FY03	Additional Students with Confirmed Transfer By Act 150 Reported in FY04	Additional Students with Confirmed Transfer By Act 150 Reported in FY05	Additional Students with Confirmed Transfer By Act 150 Reported in FY06	Additional Students with Confirmed Transfer By Act 150 Reported in FY07	Students Enrolled By Act 150 FY03	Additional Students Enrolled By Act 150 Reported in FY04	Additional Students Enrolled By Act 150 Reported in FY05	Additional Students Enrolled By Act 150 Reported in FY06	Additional Students Enrolled By Act 150 Reported in FY07	Small High School	Local Technical Center
Statewide Totals		540	547	161	120	76	52	107	161	120	76	52	107	5	15
PS405	BELLOWS FREE ACADEMY (FAIRF	--	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	No	Yes
PS406	BELLOWS FREE ACADEMY (ST. AL	4	4					3					2	No	No
	UNKNOWN			31	31	25	14								

* UNKNOWN represents students who enrolled in a school Act 150 but the transferring school is not known. The majority of these students are 8th graders during the Act 150 lotteries.

**Appendix C: Public High Schools – Composition of School Choice Regions Under Act 150
School Year 2006-2007 (September 2006)**

Notes: Schools in Addison County (three schools), Rutland County (seven schools), the Southeast Region (11 schools), and Winooski Valley (18 schools), are included individually on the list and are listed in groups at the end. For some listings, a semi-colon indicates two or more regions; for example, see Burlington. Apart from the larger groups, most schools are in regions with one or two other schools. This year, 61 schools are members of 19 regions. When more than one “X” appears in the “Agreement” column, the school is in more than one region.

School	Partners	Agreement (on file = X)
Arlington Memorial	Mt. Anthony	X
BFA-Fairfax	Missisquoi Valley	X
BFA-St. Albans	Missisquoi Valley; Milton	X; X
Bellows Falls High School	Southeast Region	X
Black River High School	Southeast Region	X
Blue Mountain Union	Oxbow	X
Brattleboro High School	Southeast Region	X
Burlington High School	Winooski; CVU and So. Burlington; Milton	X; X; X
Cabot School	Winooski Valley	X
Canaan Memorial High School	Lake Region and North Country	X
Champlain Valley Union	Burlington and So. Burlington	X
Chelsea High School	Winooski Valley	X
Colchester High School	Mt. Mansfield	X
Concord High School	Danville	X
Craftsbury Academy	Winooski Valley	X
Danville School	Concord	X
Enosburg Falls High School	Richford High School	X
Essex High School	South Burlington	X
Fair Haven High School	Rutland County	X
Green Mountain Union	Southeast Region	X
Hartford High School	Southeast Region	X
Harwood Union	Winooski Valley	X
Hazen Union	Winooski Valley	X
Lake Region Union	Canaan and North Country	X

School	Partners	Agreement (on file = X)
Lamoille Union	North Country; Winooski Valley	X; X
Leland & Gray High School	Southeast Region	X
Middlebury High School	Mt. Abraham and Vergennes	X
Mill River Union	Rutland County	X
Milton High School	Burlington; BFA-St. Albans	X; X
Missisquoi Valley Union	BFA-Fairfax; BFA-St. Albans	X; X
Montpelier High School	Winooski Valley	X
Mt. Abraham Union	Middlebury and Vergennes	X
Mt. Anthony Union	Arlington	X
Mt. Mansfield Union	Colchester	X
North Country Union	Lamoille Union; Canaan and North Country	X; X
Northfield High School	Winooski Valley	X
Otter Valley Union	Rutland County	X
Oxbow Union	Blue Mountain	X
Peoples Academy	Winooski Valley	X
Poultney High School	Rutland County	X
Proctor High School	Rutland County	X
Randolph Union	Winooski Valley	X
Richford High School	Enosburg Falls High School	X
Rivendell High School	Southeast Region	X
Rochester School	Winooski Valley	X
Rutland Senior High School	Rutland County	X
So. Burlington High School	Burlington and CVU; Essex	X; X
So. Royalton High School	Winooski Valley	X
Spaulding High School	Winooski Valley	X
Springfield High School	Southeast Region	X
Stowe High School	Winooski Valley	X
Twinfield Union High School	Winooski Valley	X
Twin Valley High School	Southeast Region	X
U-32 High School	Winooski Valley	X
Vergennes Union	Middlebury and Mt. Abraham	X
West Rutland School	Rutland County	X
Whitcomb High School	Winooski Valley	X

School	Partners	Agreement (on file = X)
Williamstown High School	Winooski Valley	X
Windsor High School	Southeast Region	X
Winooski High School	Burlington	X
Woodstock Union	Southeast Region	X

Addison County Regional Public High School Choice Partnership - 3

Middlebury
Mt. Abraham
Vergennes

Winooski Valley Region Public School Choice Collaborative - 18

Cabot	Montpelier	Spaulding
Chelsea	Northfield	Stowe
Craftsbury	Peoples Academy	Twinfield
Harwood	Randolph	U-32
Hazen	Rochester	Whitcomb
Lamoille Union	South Royalton	Williamstown

Southeast Region - 11

Bellows Falls	Hartford	Twin Valley
Black River	Leland & Gray	Windsor
Brattleboro	Rivendell	Woodstock
Green Mountain	Springfield	

Rutland County School Choice Collaborative - 7

Fair Haven
Mill River
Otter Valley
Poultney High School
Proctor High School
Rutland City High School
West Rutland School